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TELEGRAM

#125-OLC, CDC d/d REC CLS 26 JUNE 69 2210Z

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RF

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CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN AID 60

OER 2

INFO OCT 01, SS 20, JPM 04, SP 01, H 01, UPW 01, ORM 01, SR 01, ICA 02, P 03,

INR 07, 102 R

ADDED: OLC
CDC
DDP
RF

66647

DRAFTED BY: AA/VN: JAMENDENHALL

APPROVED BY: AA/VN: JAMENDENHALL

DOD: ASTSEC G.W. NUTTER (SUBS)

EA/ WM. SULLIVAN (SUBS)

VN/ND: JHOEBER

VN/ND: RGREENLAW

DIST: 4M

ACTION: VN

INFO: AAID EXSEC CLS AAPC CIA DOD NSC

60P

022386

P 250030Z JUN 69

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

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AIDAC

SUBJ: HEARINGS OF SENATE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEES
AND ESCAPEES

1. SUBCOMMITTEE HELD OPEN HEARING JUNE 24, WITH TV AND PRESS
ON HAND. SENATOR KENNEDY, SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, ONLY MEMBER
PRESENT. DR. HANNAH TESTIFIED, SUPPORTED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
NUTTER, DOD, AND MENDENHALL.

2. SENATOR KENNEDY OPENED HEARINGS WITH STATEMENT (MAINLY
DIRECTED AT THE PAST) STRONGLY CRITICAL OF GVN AND US FOR "LOW
PRIORITY" GIVEN REFUGEE AND CIVILIAN CASUALTY PROBLEMS, AND
COMMENTING THAT IT MAY NOW BE TOO LATE IN SOUTH VIETNAMESE
POLITICAL TERMS TO IMPROVE PROGRAMS IN THIS AREA. HE INDICATED THIS
SESSION HELD PRIMARILY TO GET VIEWS OF NEW ADMINISTRATION ON THESE

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PROBLEMS, AND HE EXPECTS CONDUCT FURTHER HEARINGS IN FALL WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON ADMINISTRATIONS PLANS FOR FUTURE IN CARE OF CIVILIANS.

3. DURING TESTIMONY QUESTIONS RAISED BY SENATOR KENNEDY INCLUDED FOLLOWING:

A. ABSENCE DATA ON CIVILIAN CASUALTIES NOT ADMITTED TO HOSPITALS FOR TREATMENT. (SENATOR IN OPENING STATEMENT SAID ALL CIVILIAN CASUALTIES ESTIMATED TOTAL 300,000 IN 1945.)

B. STATUS AND STAFFING OF IMPACT HOSPITALS.

C. EXTENT TO WHICH US MILITARY HOSPITALS USED FOR TREATING CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

D. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "CORDON AND SWEEP" AND "SEARCH AND DESTROY" OPERATIONS IN TERMS OF GENERATION OF REFUGEES.

E. POLICY ON FORCED RELOCATION.

F. NEW REFUGEE REPORTING SYSTEM.

G. WHETHER US CIVILIAN PERSONNEL (INCLUDING REFUGEE PERSONNEL) BEING REDUCED.

4. LAND REFORM QUESTION ALSO RAISED, AND WE OUTLINED NEW GVN APPROACH AND OUR SUPPORT. SENATOR KENNEDY INSISTENT THAT US FUNDS PROVIDED TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM BE CAREFULLY CONTROLLED, AND WE AGREED THAT THEY WOULD BE. WE EXPLAINED ROLE OF JOINT US-GVN TASK FORCE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF LAND REFORM PROGRAM, AND FACT THAT DOLLAR FUNDS TO SUP THIS PROGRAM

BE MADE AVAILABLE AND CONTROLLED THROUGH COMMERCIAL IMPORT PROGRAM MACHINERY.

5. DR. HANNAH STATED CREDIT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO GVN AND ITS TOP OFFICIALS FOR COURAGE WHEN THEY MAKE DIFFICULT AND UNPOPULAR DECISIONS. HE CITED RECENT DECISION ON TAXES TAKEN AT OUR URGING TO HELP CONTROL INFLATION.

6. IN CONCLUSION, DR. HANNAH STRESSED HIGH PRIORITY WHICH HE AND OTHER TOP US OFFICIALS GIVE TO "OTHER WAR." HE AND SENATOR

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KENNEDY AGREED IT WILL REMAIN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AFTER PEACE RE-ESTABLISHED.

7. ON JUNE 25, SUBCOMMITTEE WILL HEAR DRS. LEVINSON AND DURANT ON THEIR RECENT VISIT TO VIETNAM AS SUBCOMMITTEE CONSULTANTS. WE UNDERSTAND SUBCOMMITTEE ALSO EXPECTS HEAR BISHOP JAMES ARMSTRONG AND JOHN PENBERTON WHO RECENTLY VISITED VIETNAM AS MEMBERS OF PRIVATE STUDY TEAM ON RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL FREEDOM.

8. WE WISH EXPRESS DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO ALL MEMBERS OF MISSION WHO MET SO PROMPTLY AND FULLY OUR REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION IN PREPARING FOR HEARINGS.
ROGERS

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